

Serial No.: 09/698,595

Docket No.: KCC-15219

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A breathable laminate, comprising:

a breathable, microporous, elastic film; and
a nonwoven facing material bonded to the film;

wherein the laminate is selectively stretched ~~[[in]]~~ to form at least one or more regions stretched zone thereof to form resulting in zones of differential breathability comprising at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability;

wherein the at least one stretched zone of the laminate consists of the at least one zone of higher breathability; and

wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

2. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein ~~the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and~~ the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 10% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

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3. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein ~~the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and~~ the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 30% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

4. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein ~~the zones of differential breathability comprise at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability, and~~ the at least one zone of higher breathability has a water vapor transmission rate at least 50% higher than a water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability.

5. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 500 grams/m²-24 hours.

6. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 750 grams/m²-24 hours.

7. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the water vapor transmission rate of the at least one zone of moderate breathability is at least about 1000 grams/m²-24 hours.

8. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate is elastomeric.

9. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the facing material is necked.

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10. (Original) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the facing material is elastomeric.

11. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the at least one selectively stretched regions zone ~~[[are]]~~ is stretched at least twice.

12. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 50% to about 200% in a cross direction.

13. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 70% to about 170% in a cross direction.

14. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 100% to about 150% in a cross direction.

15. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 50% to about 200% in a machine direction.

16. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 70% to about 170% in a machine direction.

17. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 1, wherein the laminate can ~~[[by]]~~ be stretched by about 100% to about 150% in a cross direction.

18. (Original) An absorbent article outer cover comprising the laminate of Claim 1.

19-29. (Canceled)

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30. (Currently Amended) An outer cover for absorbent articles, comprising a breathable laminate;
the breathable laminate including a breathable, microporous, elastic film and a nonwoven facing material bonded to the film;

wherein the laminate is selectively stretched ~~[[in]]~~ to form at least one or more regions stretched zone thereof to form resulting in zones of differential breathability comprising at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability;

wherein the at least one stretched zone of the laminate consists of the at least one zone of higher breathability; and

wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

31. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched ~~[[in]]~~ to form at least one or more regions stretched zone prior to incorporation in the absorbent article.

32. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched ~~[[in]]~~ to form at least one or more regions stretched zone subsequent to incorporation in the absorbent article.

33. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the laminate is selectively stretched ~~[[in]]~~ to form at least one or more regions stretched zone as the absorbent article is applied to a wearer.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim ~~[[34]]~~ 30, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 500 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

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36. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim ~~[[34]]~~ 30, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 750 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

37. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim ~~[[34]]~~ 30, wherein the laminate has a water vapor transmission rate of at least about 1000 grams/m²-24 hours in the zone of moderate breathability.

38. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the facing material is necked.

39. (Original) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the facing material is elastomeric.

40. (Currently Amended) The outer cover of Claim 30, wherein the at least one selectively stretched zone regions ~~[[are]]~~ is stretched at least twice.

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41. (Currently Amended) A method of making an outer cover for absorbent articles, comprising the steps of:

forming a breathable laminate by bonding a nonwoven facing material to a breathable, microporous, elastic film; and

selectively stretching the breathable laminate ~~[[in]] to form at least one or more regions stretched zone thereof to form~~ resulting in zones of differential breathability comprising at least one zone of higher breathability and at least one zone of moderate breathability;

wherein the at least one stretched zone of the laminate consists of the at least one zone of higher breathability; and

wherein each of the zones of differential breathability comprises a portion of the film and a portion of the nonwoven facing material.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate ~~[[in]] to form at least one or more regions stretched zone~~ prior to incorporation of the laminate in the absorbent article.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate ~~[[in]] to form at least one or more regions stretched zone~~ subsequent to incorporation of the laminate in the absorbent article.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of selectively stretching the laminate ~~[[in]] to form at least one or more regions stretched zone~~ as the absorbent article is applied to a wearer.

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